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PENCE HERALDS FIRST CONVICTION UNDER TRUTH IN DOMAIN NAMES LAW HE AUTHORED

Washington, Dec 11, 2003 - Washington, D.C.— Congressman Mike Pence today heralded the landmark conviction of John Zuccarini for creating misleading domain names on the Internet to deceive minors into logging onto pornographic Web sites. This is the first conviction using the “Truth in Domain Names Act” that Pence authored and President Bush signed into law last spring.

“This conviction is one more step in making the Internet safer for our children,” said Pence. “I want to commend James Comey, the U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of New York for his hard work in tracking down this cyberscammer and bringing him to justice.

“Creating misleading domain names is a way criminals used to get around the law and make money off of innocent children,” said Pence. “This conviction puts scammers on notice that not only will their actions no longer be tolerated but they will be prosecuted with the full force of the law.”

Zuccarini pleaded guilty in federal court Wednesday, admitting to 49 counts of using domain names to direct minors to sexually explicit or nude content on web sites.

According to the U.S. Attorney’s office, in the alleged complaint, Zuccarini used various Internet registries to register domain names that consist of misspellings of popular legitimate domain names. For example, Zuccarini registered the Internet domain name “www.dinseyland.com,” a misspelling of “www.disneyland.com.”

The one-count Complaint alleges that Zuccarini engaged in the practice of registering at least 3,000 misleading domain names. The activity allegedly brought Zuccarni as much as \$1 million a year.

USA Today story on conviction:

http://www.usatoday.com/tech/news/2003-12-11-zuccarini-guilty_x.htm.

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